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The PURPLE MASK

By Grace Givard
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THIRD EPISODE—(Cont'd.)

And all the time Pat was becoming more expert. Her associations with Jacques resulted in her cleverness being repeatedly praised among the Apaches at Cafe Chat Noir. "She would make a wonderful leader for us," would be Jacques' comment every time he could introduce the subject to one of the band. "We should make her Queen of the Underworld, that's what we should do."

One day there came a telephone call for sleuth Kelly from the chief of the Parisian detective force. The robbery of a famous art collector's treasures had been the latest achievement of the mysterious thief. A painting of fabulous value had been cut from its frame, and all Paris was agog with the boldness and cunning of the crime. "We want you to help us on this theft of the Mona Lisa," said the chief of detectives, to Kelly, over the phone. "I'll do my best to help you," was Kelly's brief comment.

Impelled by a suspicion he could not set at rest the Sphinx called up Mrs. Van Nuy's home and asked for Pat. When the girl answered Kelly tried to be mysterious in his opening remarks, but Pat was undeciphered. "This is Kelly the great detective, I'm sure," said the little laugh that she sent over the phone irritated the Sphinx. "Possibly not great," he replied, "but you've got the Kelly all right, Miss Pat. I called up to invite you to go with me to the Cafe Chic to-night."

"Sorry that I have a previous engagement. Perhaps you will be surprised to hear that I'm going sailing instead of to the fashionable cafes." The girl realized, after she had taunted Kelly with her response, that she might have made a mistake. "I was only fooling," she made haste to add, in the hope of diverting Kelly from her real purpose. "The truth is I am not feeling well, and will not be able to leave the house at all this evening."

Kelly expressed his regrets, and after a few trifling pleasantries the Sphinx ended the conversation. Abruptly turning to one of his men, Kelly commanded: "Skip down to the Chat Noir and see if the Apaches are expecting anything extra to-night." And the man made haste to obey. Kelly waited impatiently for his man to return, and finally his vigil was rewarded.

"They are making great preparations for a big time, boss," said the detective. "I learn they are going to crown some woman 'Queen of the Underworld.'"

"Such being the case, we must be present at the coronation," said Kelly. And the Sphinx, with several gendarmes, was watching from every place the men could hide themselves along the street that led to Cafe Chat Noir. Just as soon as dusk fell and the underworld began to start upon its nightly pilgrimage of crime and debauchery. In the sewers that formed a network underground, there were other gendarmes ready to pounce upon the

unwary at Kelly's prearranged signal. Men and women singly, in couples and in groups, came down the street, singing and chattering in utter disregard of the amount of disturbance they created.

As the evening wore along the crowd within and without Cafe Chat Noir grew more numerous and accordingly more boisterous. It was near the midnight hour, when Kelly's sentinels passed the sign along that something unusual was on the way. Down the street dashed a cab at reckless speed and halted abruptly at the entrance of the Chat Noir.

Kelly's quick eyes saw a slight figure descend from the cab. The form was dressed jauntily in high boots and tights, that encased a limb so shapely that Kelly was certain that the new arrival was not a man. Over the shoulders of the figure swung a cape that was caught in front by dainty white hands—and across the top of the face a mask of purple silk.

"The Queen of the Underworld," Kelly exclaimed under his breath. "We shall be in at the coronation." Without halting to speak to anyone, the figure in the long cloak and purple mask entered the cafe.

Immediately the clatter and tumult was hushed. For an instant perfect silence reigned within the cafe, and then a great shout, as though the dense throng of Apaches were acclaiming in one voice, turned the cafe into a bedlam of rejoicing.

"Hail Queen of the Underworld," they shouted. Suddenly at the main entrance, Sphinx Kelly appeared backed by a group of fellow detectives and gendarmes. "Hands up! Everybody!" was his loud-shouted command.

The sound of his voice had not penetrated far into the jangle of noise, but on the instant the lights went out and Cafe Chat Noir was so dark that the keenest eyes could only discern the outline of scurrying forms.

There was a creaking noise as, at the back of the cafe, a door swung open and in rushing, struggling streams the Apaches began to pour through in speedy exit from the cafe.

Kelly knew full well that this was what they would do. He urged his men along in pursuit.

The Apaches knew the dark passages almost as well as they knew the streets far above their heads. Along the sides of the sewers ran planked or concrete runways over which workmen passed in leaving the sewer system of the great city in perfect order. There were cross sections of these "streets" where sewer led into sewer, in a perfect labyrinth of grimy and slippery passages.

Kelly ran with his best speed to get as close to the fleeing Apaches as he possibly could. He caught sight of a cloaked figure running like a wild deer.

He was sure he could not be mistaken in his "man." He kept the fleeing figure in sight, and began, finally, to overtake the person he believed he had seen descend from the cab at the door of the Chat Noir. One of the gendarmes, just ahead of the Sphinx, made a sport as if to capture the cloaked figure, but a shout from Kelly made him alter his purpose.

Kelly wanted this person for his own captive, and putting on still more speed, soon arrived within arm's length of the fleeing form. In another instant he had caught the flowing cape, and pinned the figure helplessly in his strong arms.

Holding tight to his charge, Kelly shouted orders to his men. Most of the Apaches had escaped capture, but there were enough within sight of Kelly to put up a strong fight, in their attempt to rescue the cloaked figure. After a short but tremendously active period of fighting and scuffling, the gendarmes captured most of the Apaches, while others fled, leaving Kelly in possession of his prey. Ordering his men to proceed to jail with their own prisoners, Kelly started to

The Housewife's Corner

Potomaine Poisoning.
The word potomaine, which is taken from the Greek, signifies "from a dead body." Food of nitrogenous character develops bacteria very quickly when exposed to the air in a warm temperature. It is important that, in hot weather, the utmost care be exercised in the purchasing, care and cooking of milk, eggs, meats, poultry, fish and sea food.

Cured or smoked meats, when exposed to flies or other germs, will quickly develop the potomaine germ without giving the article the appearance of being the least decayed. When buying foods during the hot season, bring home with you, if possible, such foods as are affected by the heat. Food taken from a cool store or refrigerator, then stored in a warm place, is unfit to eat; also it is liable to develop the germs that cause potomaine poisoning, without affecting the appearance of the food itself.

Do not use, as cooking utensils, enamel or porcelain pots or pans whose surfaces are broken; while stirring the contents of such utensils, the spoon is liable to come in contact with the broken surface and so chip off the fine particles, which enter the food, which, when eaten, may cause serious stomach troubles.

Careless and indifferently cleaned utensils will cause potomaine poisoning as quickly as the food itself. Give the food a reasonable amount of care when it has reached home. Symptoms of potomaine poisoning are very clear—violent pains in the abdomen and legs, nausea, diarrhea, creeping tingling sensations, accompanied by chills and low temperature. Do not delay, but send for a physician at once. Give the patient, while waiting for the doctor's arrival, a strong emetic of mustard and warm water to produce vomiting.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Be on the safe side and do not buy carelessly handled foods, exposed to the street dirt, flies and other vermin.

Use More Corn-Meal.
Corn-meal is a cheap and nutritious cereal which deserves more attention.

Into one quart of water which is boiling rapidly, sprinkle gradually one cupful of corn-meal, stirring it vigorously all the while, and add salt to taste. If your family is large double the recipe. Cook it hard for half an hour, beating it thoroughly every few moments. It can then be transferred to the fireless cooker, where it should cook not less than four hours, or it can be cooked in a double boiler on the back of the stove until supper-time. The secret of good mush, or "hasty pudding," is the long, slow cooking. The hot mush, served with milk, is an excellent supper dish, or may be reheated for the breakfast cereal.

Corn-meal mush with dates: A good and wholesome dish much liked by the children. Ten minutes before serving stir one cupful of stoned and halved dates into hot mush. Serve with milk or thin cream. Corn-meal with cheese is an excellent substitute for meat: Butter a baking-dish, put in a two-inch layer of hot mush, over this one cupful of cheese cut in small pieces, then another two-inch layer of mush. Dot the top with butter and sprinkle with a few dry bread crumbs. Brown in a hot oven.

Indian pudding: Use five cupfuls of milk, one-third cupful of meal, half a cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of salt (level), one teaspoonful of ginger (level), and butter the size of an egg. Cook meal and milk twenty minutes in a double boiler, add other ingredients, and bake two hours. Serve hot with cream and maple syrup.

Homely Wrinkles.
A good substitute for wax for rubbing on the bottoms of iron will be found in the inside wrapper of bar laundry soap. Use in same way as you do beeswax.

Pins, scissors and lead-pencils are important parts of household machinery. Every housekeeper's main workshop, the kitchen, should be supplied with these small implements. There is a right and a wrong way to do everything, even to the frying of an egg," declares a wise man. For

make his way from the sewer with the cloaked figure across his shoulder. In the chase through the sewer Kelly's assistants had been separated from their leader, and they were seated in his apartments when he reached home with his human load still safe in his grasp. He threw the cloaked figure into a chair, and ordered one of his men to snap handcuffs upon the dainty white wrists.

Then Kelly sat down to regain his breath. He contemplated his assistants with a look of superiority. His manner clearly indicated his self-satisfaction. "We did not get any jewels or paintings, boys," cried the Sphinx, "but here is the leader of the gang." The great detective reached over to the little and graceful form as it sat listlessly in a roomy armchair and started to remove the cloak that covered the figure's head and upper body.

And in that instant Kelly received the greatest shock in his career as Europe's most famous and fearless detective.

(To be continued.)

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EVERYDAY

LAKESIDE

YACHTING

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NEWS FROM ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

The Government is now considering proposals to establish a Ministry of Health.

The Dorset Guild Workers have sent 300 fishing rods to the troops in Mesopotamia.

The leather and allied trades have raised £12,285 for the Union Jack Club, London.

Establishments under Government control in Ireland are now employing about 35,000 people.

The Hammersmith Borough Council has made a profit of £244 in a year by collecting waste paper.

Two hundred boys of the Mayford School are to encamp in South Hampshire to help with the fruit picking.

The dustmen of Richmond, Surrey, have been asked to report on any food waste that may come to their notice.

The sum of £10,000 has been received by Cambridge University for the endowment of a school of Spanish.

Sir Charles Sealy has received word that his son, Capt. Charles G. Sealy, is wounded and missing in Palestine.

Sir John Jellicoe has received the honorary freedom of the Shipwrights' Company and was entertained at dinner.

Sunday labor has been abolished, as far as possible, in the factories under the control of the Minister of Munitions.

A magnificent motor car has been given to the St. Dunstan's bazaar for blinded soldiers by the Diamond Company.

A bench of magistrates at Cowes, Isle of Wight, fined Dr. Herbert Fisher £2 for being absent from military duty.

Three hundred thousand spare razors have been collected and renovated by the Cutlers' Company for the use of the troops.

Major J. C. X. McKenna, who before the war, was on the staff of the Daily Mirror, has died in France of pneumonia.

The revenue of the Manchester tramways was nearly £1,000,000 last year and over 200 millions of passengers were carried.

Tame rabbits are now being used for food in England, and are selling in Hitchin market for six shillings and ninepence each.

A motion was unanimously adopted by the Imperial Conference that India should be fully represented at all future conferences.

THE SUBMARINE PROBLEM.
Latest U-Boats Fast Enough to Over-take Cargo Boats.

The Germans have about 325 submarines in operation and about 80 to 100 have been lost through British nets alone, according to a Dutch writer who had an interview with a member of the crew of the submarine U-58. This is the submarine which sank the Dutch grain ships in February. It is commanded by Capt. Count Von Plaetau.

When at sea the submarines assemble at a given point every morning and receive wireless instructions, presumably from Heligoland. There are about 39 U-boats of the newest type, each carrying a crew of 56 men, and this fleet is supplemented by a secondary squadron marked with a "C."

The first-class boats have a speed calculated as sufficient to overtake any cargo boat. Two-thirds of their crews are experienced and one-third novices. The boats carry a fortnight's stores, and have a maximum period of submergence of from eight to ten hours. Each is equipped with two periscopes, and sometimes descend to from 30 to 50 metres.

Here is an excellent recipe for salad dressing:—Mix 3 tablespoonfuls sugar, 1 tablespoonful mustard, 1 teaspoonful salt, a speck red pepper, and 1 tablespoonful flour; add two well beaten eggs and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar; stir in double boiler until thick; remove from fire and add 3 tablespoonfuls butter; cool, keep in sealed glass jar; thin quantity needed with sour or sweet cream.

To wash blankets: Put a pint of household ammonia and a pint of warm water in a tub, lay the blanket in and pour a little warm water over it—just enough to wet the top folds. Cover closely and allow the blanket to stand for a few moments, that the fumes arising from the ammonia may loosen the dirt, then wash and dry it in the ordinary way, in water of the same temperature as the first used. Pass the blanket lightly through the wringer and hang it out to dry.

The ordinary cooking of any kind of "greens" renders them a tasteless stew in comparison to cooking them in their own juices. To do this, wash them thoroughly, shake the water from the leaves, put them into a tightly covered pot, and place over a slow fire. The juice in the stems and the leaves is sufficient to cook them without burning if the fire is low, especially at first. The flavor is greatly improved. The tender young plants which we pull up when thinning out the beds, make as nice a dish of "greens" as one could ask for.

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